

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS LILONGWE 000905

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AGRICULTURE
STATE FOR AF/S MELINDA TABLER-STONE
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ABT/ATP J SHANNON
STATE FOR EB/TPP/IPE S WILSON
STATE PLEASE PASS TO USTR, USPTO AND USDA
USTR FOR D MULLANEY
USPTO FOR D LASHLEY-JOHNSON
USDA FOR J HURST

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KIPR](#) [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#)

SUBJECT: MALAWI ON WTO AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS

REF: SECSTATE 177074

1. (SBU) Embassy delivered reftel points to trade ministry principal secretary Newby Kumwembe on 3 October, with follow up on 11 October. As is usual in Malawi's multilateral trade discussions, Kumwembe anticipated that Malawi would follow the consensus of least-developed countries in the WTO negotiations. Kumwembe indicated that he agreed somewhat with the USG position, but that geographical indications (GIs) appear to be relevant to categories of goods beyond the purview of intellectual property. Given Malawi's general sensitivity to European concerns in its approach to trade policy, Embassy believes Malawi will be sympathetic to the EU position.

2. (U) EconOff has discussed the GI issue with several exporters who could conceivably influence the GOM's position. The USG argument that GIs are best dealt with in the context of intellectual property discussions receives a sympathetic hearing in Malawi, but there is a sense that local agricultural products may somehow come out ahead under the EU scheme. (Note: Malawi hopes to brand its tea and Mzuzu coffee, possibly even its sugar, at some point in the future. End note.) Embassy has not received the video mentioned in reftel (and requested by post) and has not been able to organize meetings around the video.

EASTHAM